



*Coalition Of Arizona/
New Mexico Counties
For Stable Economic
Growth*

*"Working together for responsible
management."*

March 23, 2023

The Honorable Bruce Westerman, Chairman
The Honorable Raul Grijalva, Ranking Member
House Committee on Natural Resources House Committee on Natural Resources
1324 Longworth House Office Building 1332 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515 Washington, DC 20515

Re: H.R. 764, the Trust the Science Act


These comments are being submitted by the Arizona Counties Gila, Graham and Navajo and the New Mexico Counties, Catron, Chaves, Eddy, Harding, Hidalgo, Lea, McKinley, Roosevelt, Sierra and Socorro along with strong support from the timber, farming, livestock, mining, small business, sportsman and outfitter industries as members of the Coalition of Arizona/ New Mexico Counties (Coalition). Our representation currently exceeds 700,000 in combined county populations.

Many of our member counties have suffered significant harm with the introduction of Mexican wolves under a 10(j) rule. While the Mexican wolf is not a subject of this legislation, we are fully aware of impacts that can accrue from wolf presence. We have already witnessed the constant movement of the population recovery criteria. We have gone from recovery in the wild of 100 wolves to more than 600 as of today.

The heart of the issue involved in H.R. 764 is the ability of states and local governments to properly manage all wildlife species and their habitat. Along with knowledgeable residents' management of habitat and domestic livestock ESA listed species can recover and populations remain stable.

The Coalition supports the legislation to delist the Norther Grey wolf. State management of these wolves has been described as politically driven regulation that does not provide adequate protections. This is the language of activist litigants. Once a species achieves ESA recovery targets management needs to be returned to the states. It is important to note that states and residents properly and successfully manage many more species than are listed under ESA. In addition, states also have their own versions of the ESA for species that need protection in their jurisdictions.

We appreciate your consideration of our comments.



Dean Jackson, President